

☒ Original ☐ Amendment

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

2015 JUN 12 AM 10:22

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

MEMBER / OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

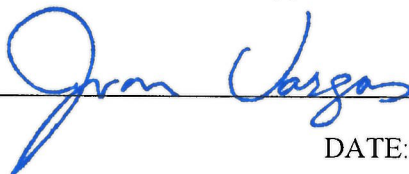
This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual Financial Disclosure Statement. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must **complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Juan Vargas
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_ or None ☒  
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: May 25, 2015 Return: May 31, 2015  
b. Dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_ or None ☒
4. Departure city: Washington, DC Destination: Istanbul, Turkey Return city: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): The Turkish Coalition of America
6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): See attached.
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (*signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*):
  - a. ☒ a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
  - b. ☒ the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
  - c. ☒ page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the Member or officer; *and*
  - d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda. (*Signify that statement is true by checking box*): ☒  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_



DATE: 6/11/15

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. ***A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA)
2. Travel Destination(s): Istanbul and Canakkale, Turkey; Sarajevo and Maglaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Date of Departure: May 25, 2015 Date of Return: May 31, 2015
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): See Addendum 1 for list of travelers  
(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)
5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	See Addendum 3	\$1,209.20	\$467.72	See Addendum 4
Accompanying Relative	See Addendum 3		\$467.72	See Addendum 4

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box): ☒

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: G. Lincoln McCurdy

Name: G. Lincoln McCurdy

Title: President

Organization: Turkish Coalition of America

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box): ☒

Address: 1510 H St, NW - Ste.900

Washington, DC 20005

Telephone number: (202) 370-1399

Email Address: lmccurdy@tc-america.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

**TCA-Sponsored 17th Congressional Delegation to Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)**

**Post Trip Report**

May 25-31, 2015

**ADDENDUM 1: FINAL PARTICIPANT LIST**

**Delegates:**

1. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY/18<sup>th</sup>)
2. Timothy Persico, Chief of Staff for Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY/18<sup>th</sup>)
3. Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA/51<sup>st</sup>)
4. Ryan Carney, Chief of Staff for Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ/3<sup>rd</sup>)
5. Micah Chambers, Legislative Director for Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT/AL)
6. David Fitzsimmons, Chief of Staff for Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN/6<sup>th</sup>)
7. Tyler Houlton, Chief of Staff for Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI/6<sup>th</sup>)
8. Roy Schultheis, Chief of Staff for Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL/26<sup>th</sup>)

**Additional attendees:**

1. Randy Florke, Spouse of Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY/18<sup>th</sup>)\*  
*\*Randy Florke, as the spouse of Rep. Maloney, personally covered all of his airfare costs, and the sponsor (TCA) covered all other costs of his participation including bus and boat transportation.*

**ADDENDUM 2: FINAL ITINERARY AND NOTES**

**May 25, 2015/Monday**

Night Depart the United States for Istanbul  
Participants depart from one of the following cities:  
Chicago (ORD) – TK6, Departs at 10:15 pm (Central Time)  
Washington, DC (IAD) – TK8, Departs at 11:25 pm  
New York City (JFK) – TK12, Departs at 11:55 pm

**May 26, 2015/Tuesday**

Afternoon Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport  
Participants arrive according to departure city:  
04:40 pm from Washington, DC (IAD)  
04:45 pm from New York City (JFK)  
05:05 pm from Chicago (ORD)

06:20 pm Session 1 (Day 1): Transfer by boat from Atakoy to ABS (Armaggan Bosphorus Suites)

08:00 pm – 10:00 pm Session 2 (Day 1): Cocktail reception at ABS

10:15 pm Transfer to Pera Palace Hotel

### **Notes, Day 1:**

All delegation participants arrived smoothly in Istanbul

Session 1 (Day 1): The group met up with the tour guide and continued on to the marina, where they boarded a boat that took them to ABS.

- The historian gave short lectures about many key areas of Istanbul.
- Delegates also asked the historian about places they would see during the trip.

Session 2 (Day 1): At the reception, delegates had dinner, met the TCA staff, and were given a tour of ABS.

### **May 27, 2015/Wednesday**

- 08:00 am – 09:00 am Session 1 (Day 2): TCA /TCF briefings – (*Pera Palace Meeting Room*)  
*Lincoln McCurdy, TCA President*  
*Guler Koknar, Executive Director TCF*
- 09:00 am – 10:30 am Session 2 (Day 2): Roundtable with academics to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, the Turkish elections, Turkish domestic politics, press freedom in Turkey, Kurdish issues in Turkey, trade between the U.S. and Turkey, and the role of Turkish civil society – (*Pera Palace Meeting Room*)  
*Prof. Ilter Turan, Bilgi University*  
*Prof. Ahmet Han, Kadir Has University*
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Session 3 (Day 2): Roundtable with NGOs to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, the Turkish elections, and the role of Turkish civil society – (*Pera Palace Meeting Room*)  
*Ms. Itir Aykut, KAGIDER Vice President*  
*Defne Arslan, Atlantic Council Turkey representative*  
*Evren Ergec, Head of Fields and Global Affairs Dept. TOG*  
*Zeynep Guven, Advisor to US Chamber's U.S Turkey Business Council*
- 12:00 pm Depart hotel, transfer to Adahan Hotel
- 12:30 pm – 02:30 pm Session 4 (Day 2): Lunch with journalists to discuss current events, the Turkish elections, Turkish domestic politics, and social media and press freedoms in Turkey – (*Adahan Hotel Meeting Room*)  
*Ms. Ayla Jean Yackley-Thomson-Reuters*
- 02:30 pm – 04:30 pm Session 5 (Day 2): Briefing with *Chuck Hunter, Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul*, to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, domestic politics in Turkey, and the Turkish elections – (*Adahan Hotel Meeting Room*)
- 04:30 pm Depart Adahan Hotel, transfer to Sultanahmet neighborhood
- 05:00 pm – 06:30 pm Session 6 (Day 2): Visit Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque with historian
- 06:30 pm Transfer to hotel
- 07:00 pm – 07:30 pm Free time at hotel
- 07:30 pm Transfer to dinner

08:00 pm – 10:00 pm Session 7 (Day 2): Dinner with business community representatives –  
(Leb-i Derya Restaurant, Richmond Hotel)  
Gurtay Kipcak-Advisor to Chairman and CEO-The Coca-Cola  
Bulent Arasli-Vice Pres.-Kordsa  
Arda Karaduman-Business Development Director-Eczacibasi Monrol  
Dilek Mutus-Regional Manager-Wells Fargo Bank

**Notes, Day 2:**

Session 1 (Day 2): TCA staff introduced the programs and activities of the Turkish Coalition of American and the Turkish Cultural Foundation.

- Delegates asked questions about Congressional outreach and the measurable effect that many of the programs have had.

Session 2 (Day 2): Ilter Turan of Bilgi University and Ahmet Han of Kadir Has University discussed Turkish domestic politics, the upcoming Turkish elections, Turkish foreign policy in the last decade, and U.S.-Turkey relations.

- Turan gave an overview of the June 7 Turkish elections, discussing what is at stake, giving projections based on current polls, and presenting different potential outcomes.
- Han argued that Turkey's insistence on combatting Assad in Syria was the result of Turkish Prime Minister Davutoglu's inability and/or unwillingness to adapt his vision of Turkey as an Islamic leader in the Middle East to changing circumstances in the region.
- Delegates discussed whether the political elite in Turkey was more aligned with the West or the East and the important role Turkey can play in Middle Eastern politics.

Session 3 (Day 2): The delegation heard from representatives of several NGOs in Turkey, including the Atlantic Council, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), and Women's Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER).

- A wide array of organizations was represented on the panel, and the group was able to see the vitality of the NGO sector in Turkey.
- Defne Arslan of the Atlantic Council is an economist and provided an economic context to many issues.
- The delegation also learned about the situation of women in Turkey and the low participation of females in the workforce.

Session 4 (Day 2): Over lunch at Adahan Hotel, the delegation had an in-depth discussion with Ayla Jean Yackley-Thomson, a reporter for *Reuters* in Turkey, about current Turkish politics.

- They discussed the Kurdish role in the upcoming elections and how the elections might affect the Kurdish peace process. Other topics included relations with Greece, economic growth, the civil war in Syria, and Turkish relations with Armenia.
- Some discussion was about the leadership style of Erdogan, as well as concerns that Turkey might turn away from the West in favor of Russia, China, or its Middle Eastern neighbors.

Session 5 (Day 2): The delegation met with Chuck Hunter, Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul.

- Justin Friedman, Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara who was in Istanbul on business related to the Turkish elections, accompanied Hunter to the meeting and contributed his own perspective to the discussion.
- Delegates learned about the U.S.-Turkey relationship and what would change if this relationship weakened.
- The group discussed what may happen with the Turkish elections, Turkey's relations with Israel, the issue of foreign fighters crossing into Syria from Turkey, the treatment of women in Turkey, the relationship between Erdogan and Davutoglu, and press freedom in Turkey. Some discussion centered around the train-and-equip program.

Session 6 (Day 2): Following the day's briefings, the group visited the Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque with the historian.

- For many of the delegates, the visit to the Blue Mosque was their first time entering a mosque. This was important for their understanding the religion and culture of Turkey.

Session 7 (Day 2): The day ended with dinner at Leb-i Derya Restaurant with Turkish business representatives.

- The delegates were able to have more informal conversations about Turkey and the current business climate in the country with the business representatives.

#### **May 28, 2015/Thursday**

08:30 am	Depart hotel, transfer to Bilgi University
09:00 am – 10:00 am	<u>Session 1 (Day 3):</u> Roundtable discussion with the Bilgi University Civil Society Incubator to discuss the role of civil society organizations in Turkey – ( <i>Bilgi University, Civil Society Incubator Headquarters</i> )
10:00 am	Depart Bilgi University, transfer to Nar Restaurant-Armaggan building
10:30 am – 12:30 pm	<u>Session 2 (Day 3):</u> Roundtable discussion with religious minority community leaders to discussion the situation of religious minorities in Turkey – ( <i>Armaggan, fourth floor meeting room</i> ) <i>Ms. Deniz Saporta, Jewish Community Representative</i>
12:30 pm – 02:30 pm	<u>Session 3 (Day 3):</u> Lunch at Nar Restaurant with <i>Timur Soylemez, Minister Counselor- Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, domestic politics in Turkey, and the Turkish elections – ( <i>Armaggan, fourth floor meeting room</i> )
02:30 pm – 04:00 pm	<u>Session 4 (Day 3):</u> Briefing by historian on the Balkan Wars, the Armenian and Greek issues, WWI history, and Turkey in WWI – ( <i>Armaggan, fourth floor meeting room</i> ) <i>Dr. Umut Uzer, Istanbul Technical University</i>
04:00 pm	Transfer to Istanbul Ataturk Airport
05:00 pm	Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport
06:45 pm	Depart Istanbul on TK1025, transfer to Sarajevo

07:35 pm	Arrive Sarajevo International Airport (SJJ) <i>*Note the 1-hr time change between Sarajevo and Istanbul. The flight is approximately 2 hours.</i>
08:00 pm	Transfer to the Golf Club Restaurant in Sarajevo
08:30 pm – 10:30 pm	<u>Session 5 (Day 3)</u> : Reception/dinner at the Golf Club Restaurant (Bosnian government officials; representatives from Bosnian NGOs, the Turkish Embassy, the U.S. Embassy, and the U.S. Department of State; and a Marshall Legacy Institute donor delegation were present)
10:30 pm	Transfer to Residence Inn Sarajevo

**Notes, Day 3:**

Session 1 (Day 3): Participants travelled to Bilgi University to meet with a coordinator of the Bilgi University Civil Society Incubator Program.

- The program gives new organizations temporary office space and organizational and monetary support. This is meant to help new organizations grow, succeed, and ultimately enhance Turkish civil society.
- The group also discussed the Turkish government's relationship with civil society groups.

Session 2 (Day 3): The group met with a representative of the Jewish community in Istanbul, Ms. Deniz Saporta, at Armaggan.

- Saporta spoke about the situation of religious minorities in Turkey. She emphasized that she identified as Turkish and had experienced little discrimination in Turkish society. She also discussed the status of other religious minorities in Turkey, such as Armenians and Greek Orthodox.

Session 3 (Day 3): The lunch meeting with Timur Soylemez, the Deputy Director General for the Americas at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allowed the delegation to hear the Turkish government perspective on many key issues.

- Soylemez emphasized that Turkey and the U.S. are indispensable allies. There is great potential for this relationship to improve. He also stated that the U.S. needs to better listen to the Turkish side of issues and include the Turkish government in discussions.
- The group discussed the relationship between the two countries, and agreed that the situation on the ground is too complex for one side to determine the best course of action. Several issues came up during the discussion, including relations with Iran, the Syrian civil war, the Islamic State, and the train-and-equip program.

Session 4 (Day 3): The delegation had a final briefing at Armaggan by Umut Uzer of Istanbul Technical University, who spoke on the history of the end of the Ottoman Empire, the Balkan Wars, World War I, and the Armenian and Greek issues.

- He provided a historical analysis of the Ottoman Empire's role in World War I. Having entered the war on the side of the Germans, the Ottoman Empire collapsed shortly after the Allied Forces defeated the Axis Powers in 1918. This provided the impetus for the foundation of the Turkish Republic in 1923.

- World War I plays an important part in the history, origins, and identity of modern Turkey and the Middle East, and is integral to understanding Turkish history, politics, and identity throughout the twentieth century and up to the present day.
- Furthermore, the fall of the Ottoman Empire created a complicated situation that still influences current Middle Eastern politics.

Session 5 (Day 3): Upon arriving in Sarajevo, the delegation transferred to the Golf Club Restaurant.

- This restaurant overlooked a golf course built on previous minefield, which underlined the de-mining work undertaken by the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) and supported by TCA and the U.S. State Department.
- The group met the donor delegation brought to Bosnia by MLI, which included Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), and learned about the de-mining work from the delegation.

### **May 29, 2015/Friday**

07:30 am	<u>Session 1 (Day 4):</u> Depart hotel, transfer to Maglaj by bus <i>**The drive from Sarajevo to Maglaj takes approximately 1 hour 45 minutes.</i>
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<u>Session 2 (Day 4):</u> Visit cleared minefields in Maglaj and attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony with municipality representatives
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	<u>Session 3 (Day 4):</u> Briefing about the de-mining process in Maglaj, including meetings with Maglaj municipality officials and a short video about the floods and mine situation in Maglaj municipality
12:30 pm – 03:00 pm	<u>Session 4 (Day 4):</u> Lunch hosted by the Mayor of Maglaj, other high-level municipality officials, and members of the community who were impacted by the clearance of landmines in Maglaj
03:00 pm	Depart Maglaj and transfer to Sarajevo
05:00 pm	Arrive Sarajevo
05:00 pm – 06:30 pm	<u>Session 5 (Day 4):</u> Watch a game of a sitting volleyball tournament in BiH
06:30 pm	Transfer to airport
08:35 pm	Depart Sarajevo on TK1026, transfer to Istanbul
11:30 pm	Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST) <i>*Note the 1-hr time change between Sarajevo and Istanbul. The flight is approximately 2 hours.</i>
00:30 am	Arrive Atakoy Hyatt Regency Hotel

### **Notes, Day 4:**

Session 1 (Day 4): The transferred to Maglaj from Sarajevo by bus.

- Along the way, the bus passed several key sites in Sarajevo, including the bridge where Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot in 1914. A historian gave the group information about these sites along the way.



Session 2 (Day 4): The ribbon cutting ceremony in Maglaj commemorated the completion of the de-mining project undertaken by MLI with TCA funds that were matched by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) of the U.S. State Department.

- Massive flooding throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in August 2014 disturbed many minefields in the country, causing mines to migrate from known locations and threaten to those living there. This project removed a minefield in the Maglaj region.
- Several individuals spoke at the ceremony, including the director of MLI, Perry Baltimore; the mayor of Maglaj; a community resident who was directly impacted by the clearing of the landmines; the director of the Mine Detection Dog Center (MDDC), which coordinated the removal of the mines on the ground; and a representative from the International Trust Fund (ITF), an organization aiding mine victims in Bosnia.
- A ribbon was also ceremoniously cut to mark the removal of mines from the field.

Session 3 (Day 4): Following the ceremony, delegates watched a video about the floods and the clearing of the minefield, and heard more from several municipality leaders.

Session 4 (Day 4): Delegates enjoyed traditional Bosnian food at lunch and interacted with Maglaj municipality leaders.

Session 5 (Day 4): The group watched a sitting volleyball game.

- The Fantomi Volleyball Club, a world champion sitting volleyball team consisting primarily of landmine survivors, played the U.S. national sitting volleyball team in a tournament that was taking place in Bosnia that week.

#### **May 30, 2015/Saturday**

06:30 am	Coffee in hotel lobby
07:00 am	<u>Session 1 (Day 5):</u> Depart hotel, transfer to Eceabat/Canakkale by bus
12:30 pm – 01:30 pm	<u>Session 2 (Day 5):</u> Lunch at Maydos Restaurant in Eceabat and briefing by historian on the Gallipoli campaign
01:30 pm – 02:30 pm	<u>Session 3 (Day 5):</u> Visit Canakkale Martyr's Memorial with historian
02:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<u>Session 4 (Day 5):</u> Boat tour of the Dardanelles and Anzac Cove with historian, beginning and ending at Kabatepe
04:00 pm – 06:00 pm	<u>Session 5 (Day 5):</u> Get off boat at Kabatepe, a village near Eceabat and visit key sites of the 1915 Gallipoli Campaign with historian by bus
06:00 pm	<u>Session 6 (Day 5):</u> Transfer to Ilhan Restaurant in Gelibolu for dinner
07:00 pm	Transfer to Atakoy Hyatt Regency Hotel in Istanbul

#### **Notes, Day 5:**

Session 1 (Day 5): While on the bus to Canakkale, the historian gave briefings on the Dardanelles, the Gallipoli Campaign and several figures who played a key role in the battle.

- The Turkish straits dividing Asia and Europe are comprised of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. This 17-mile long waterway supplies Western and Southern Europe with oil from the Caspian Sea Region, and with 50,000 vessels passing through the straits

annually carrying oil and other goods, the Dardanelles are one of the world's busiest trade passageways.

- Canakkale, a port town at the entrance of the Dardanelles, is also the site of two famous battles that helped shape Western civilization: the Trojan War and the Gallipoli Campaign. 2015 marks the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli, a key victory for Ottoman forces against the Allies during World War I and an event that is a key source of national pride for modern Turkey.

Session 2 (Day 5): Delegates had lunch on the patio at Maydos restaurant.

Session 3 (Day 5): After lunch, the group made their way to several Battle of Gallipoli sites.

- They first visited the Canakkale Martyr's Memorial. The site was crowded with Turkish tourists, which underlined how important the site is to Turks and the role that the battle plays in Turkish identity.
- The delegation visited the memorial commemorating the British victims of the battle.
- While driving between sites, the historian continued to provide information about the area, including the sites Kilitbahir and Seddulbahir, two Ottoman era forts.

Session 4 (Day 5): At Kabatepe, the group boarded a boat to tour the area around Anzac Cove.

- The delegation was able to see the perspectives and obstacles of the ANZACs as they landed on the beach, and the perspectives of Turkish forces as they defended the area.
- The group was also able to see where some British and Anzac ships were destroyed. The outline of several of these ships is still visible through the water.

Session 5 (Day 5): The last site that the delegation visited was the Lone Pine battlefield, which is the current site of the Australian memorial and cemetery.

- Turkey has allowed so many other nations to have a presence on its land in order to commemorate their dead. This shows the battle site's significance as a place of reconciliation, friendship, and international peace.

Session 6 (Day 5): For dinner, the delegation stopped in Gelibolu for a traditional meal of meze and fish.

### **May 31, 2013/Sunday**

10:45 am                      Transfer to Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST)

Early afternoon            Depart Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST) to the U.S.

For flights back to the U.S., participants depart from Istanbul to one of the following cities:

New York City (JFK) – TK1, Departs at 01:15 pm, Arrives JFK 04:50 pm

Washington, DC (IAD) – TK7, Departs at 01:40 pm, Arrives IAD at 06:10 pm

**ADDENDUM 3: TOTAL TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES**

	<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>Total (Per Person)</b>
Individuals flying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Class on the transatlantic flights</li><li>• Business Class on the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul</li></ul> 2 individuals: Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney and Rep. Juan Vargas	\$4,587 (Transatlantic Flights) \$689.66 (Sarajevo-Istanbul Flights) \$196.5 (Bus and Boat Costs)	<b>\$5,473.16</b>
Individuals flying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Class on the transatlantic flights</li><li>• Coach Class on the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul</li></ul> 1 individual: Tim Persico (Chief of Staff for Rep. Sean Maloney)	\$4,127 (Transatlantic Flights) \$375.97 (Sarajevo-Istanbul Flights) \$196.5 (Bus and Boat Costs)	<b>\$5,031.47</b>
Individuals flying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coach Class on the transatlantic flights</li><li>• Coach Class on the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul</li></ul> 5 individuals: Ryan Carney, David FitzSimmons, Tyler Houlton, Roy Schultheis, Micah Chambers	\$1,694 (Transatlantic Flights) \$375.97 (Sarajevo-Istanbul Flights) \$196.5 (Bus and Boat Costs)	<b>\$2,266.47</b>
The one accompanying relative (Randy Florke, who covered his own airfare expenses)		<b>\$196.50 (Bus and Boat Costs)</b>

**ADDENDUM 4: TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total (Per Person)</b>
Museum Entrance and Guide Service	\$220.19
Meeting Rooms	\$168.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$388.50</b>

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics**

**TRAVELER FORM**

1. Name of Traveler: Juan Vargas
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): The Turkish Coalition of America
3. Travel destination(s): Istanbul, Turkey; Canakkale, Turkey; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
4. a. Date of departure May 25, 2015 Date of return: May 31, 2015  
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
If yes, dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes:  
(1) Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (*i.e.*, travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.  
**See attached.**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? ☐ Yes ☒ No

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:**

**ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL**

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Employing Member

8. Turkey is a major NATO ally who serves as the nexus between the West and the East. As the Middle East region continues to face many difficulties, I am interested in further developing ties with Turkey through dialogue and understanding. This will greater inform my work as a Member of the US House of Representatives as we confront threats from ISIS and other transnational terrorist groups.

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics**

**PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM**

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): \_\_\_\_\_  
The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒
3. Check only one: I represent that:
  - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip ☒ or
  - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds ☐ or.
  - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities. ☐If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members and employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):  
See Addendum 2 for list of invitees and Addendum 2 and 3 for invitation explanation
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? ☒ Yes ☐ No
6. Date of departure: May 25, 2015 Date of return: May 31, 2015
7. a. City of departure: Participants will depart from either Washington, DC; Boston; New York City; Chicago; or LA  
b. Destination(s): Participants will travel to Istanbul, Turkey; Canakkale, Turkey, and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
c. City of return: Participants will arrive either in Washington, DC; Boston; New York City; or LA
8. I represent that (check one of the following):
  - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: ☐ or
  - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: ☒ or
  - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations. ☐
9. Check one of the following:
  - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above: ☒
  - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging: ☐
  - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: ☐ or
  - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights: ☐If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box): ☒
11. Check one:
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒ or
- b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education. ☐
12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:  
TCA's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing the trip is explained in  
+  
Addendum 3  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.
- a. Mode of travel: Air ☒ Rail ☐ Bus ☒ Car ☐ Other ☐ (Specify: See Addendum 4)
- b. Class of travel: Coach ☒ Business ☒ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (Specify: See Addendum 4)
- c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒
15. I represent that either (check one of the following):
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: ☐ or
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation: ☒
- If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided):  
May 26-\$50; May 26-\$130; May 28-\$110; May 29-\$65; May 30-\$130; May 31-\$20
- 2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:  
The purpose of the trip to the selected locations is detailed in Addendum 3.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel name: See Addendum 5 for hotel information City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	See Addendum 6	\$917	\$505
For each accompanying relative	\$385 (bus and ferry costs)		\$505

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$527	See Addendum 7
For each accompanying relative	\$527	

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. ☒ or   
b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education. ☐
20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip. ☒
21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: G. Lincoln McCurdy

Name: G. Lincoln McCurdy

Title: President

Organization: Turkish Coalition of America

Address: 1510 H St, NW - Ste. 900, Washington, DC 20005

Telephone number: (202) 370-1399

Email address: lmccurdy@tc-america.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7103 (phone)  
(202) 225-7392 (general fax)



**TCA Congressional Delegation to Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)**

May 25-31, 2015

**Addendum 1: PROPOSED ITINERARY** – edited 5/5/15 for clarifications requested by the Ethics Committee

May 25, 2015/Monday

Night

Depart the United States for Istanbul

Participants will depart from one of the following cities:

Los Angeles (LAX) – TK10, Departs at 6:20 pm (Pacific Time)

Chicago (ORD) – TK6, Departs at 10:15 pm (Central Time)

Washington, DC (IAD) – TK8, Departs at 11:25 pm

Boston (BOS) – TK82, Departs at 11:45 pm

New York City (JFK) – TK12, Departs at 11:55 pm

May 26, 2015/Tuesday

Afternoon

Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport

Participants arrive according to departure city:

04:25 pm from Boston (BOS)

04:40 pm from Washington, DC (IAD)

04:45 pm from New York City (JFK)

05:05 pm from Chicago (ORD)

05:10 pm from Los Angeles (LAX)

06:20 pm Transfer by boat from Atakoy to ABS (Armaggan Bosphorus Suites)

08:00 pm – 10:00 pm Cocktail reception at ABS

10:15 pm Transfer to Pera Palace Hotel

May 27, 2015/Wednesday

08:00 am – 09:00 am TCA /TCF briefings at hotel

09:00 am – 10:30 am Roundtable with academicians to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, the upcoming Turkish elections (Turkish Parliamentary elections will take place June 7), Turkish domestic politics, press freedom in Turkey, Kurdish issues in Turkey, trade between the U.S. and Turkey, and the role of Turkish civil society

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Roundtable with NGO's to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, the upcoming Turkish elections (Turkish Parliamentary elections will take place June 7), and the role of Turkish civil society

12:00 pm Depart hotel, transfer to Adahan Hotel

12:30 pm – 02:30 pm Lunch at Adahan Hotel with journalists to discuss current events in Turkey, the upcoming Turkish elections (Turkish Parliamentary elections will take place June 7), Turkish domestic politics, and social media and press freedoms in Turkey

02:30 pm – 03:00 pm Depart Adahan Hotel, transfer to Bahcesehir University or Kadir Has University  
 03:00 pm – 04:30 pm Roundtable with university students to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations and educate Turkish university students about U.S. politics and how the U.S. Congress functions  
 04:30 pm Depart Bahcesehir University, transfer to Sultanahmet neighborhood  
 05:00 pm – 06:30 pm Visit Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque with historian  
 06:30 pm Transfer to hotel  
 07:00 pm – 07:30 pm Free time at hotel  
 07:30 pm Transfer to dinner  
 08:00 pm – 10:00 pm Dinner with business community representatives

May 28, 2015/Thursday

08:00 am – 10:00 am Breakfast meeting with US Consul General Chuck Hunter at hotel to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, domestic politics in Turkey, and the upcoming Turkish elections (Turkish Parliamentary elections will take place June 7)  
 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Roundtable discussion with religious minority community leaders (Including Jewish, Armenian-Orthodox, Greek-Orthodox) at hotel  
 12:00 pm Depart hotel, transfer to Nar Restaurant  
 12:30 pm – 02:30 pm Lunch at Nar Restaurant with Timur Soylemez of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss U.S.-Turkey relations, current events in Turkey, domestic politics in Turkey, and the upcoming Turkish elections (Turkish Parliamentary elections will take place June 7)  
 02:30 pm – 04:00 pm Briefing by historian on the Balkan Wars, the Armenian and Greek issues, WWI history, and Turkey in WWI at Nar Restaurant  
Briefing on Turkey in World War I: The historian will provide a historical analysis of the Ottoman Empire's role in World War I. Having entered the war on the side of the Germans, the Ottoman Empire collapsed shortly after the Allied Forces defeated the Axis Powers in 1918. This provided the impetus for the foundation of the Turkish Republic in 1923. World War I plays an important part in the history, origins, and identity of modern Turkey and the Middle East, and is integral to understanding Turkish history, politics, and identity throughout the twentieth century and up to the present day. Furthermore, since the delegation will be visiting Gallipoli a few days later, this discussion will help the trip participants situate what they will see in its broader historical context.  
 04:00 pm Transfer to Istanbul Ataturk Airport  
 05:00 pm Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport  
 06:45 pm Depart Istanbul on TK1025, transfer to Sarajevo  
 07:35 pm Arrive Sarajevo International Airport (SJJ)  
*\*Note the 1-hr time change between Sarajevo and Istanbul. The flight is approximately 2 hours.*

08:00 pm Transfer to the Golf Club Restaurant in Sarajevo  
 08:30 pm – 10:30 pm Reception/dinner at the Golf Club Restaurant (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Civil Affairs, US Ambassador, Turkish Ambassador are invited)  
 10:30 pm Transfer to Residence Inn Sarajevo

May 29, 2015/Friday

07:30 am Depart hotel, transfer to Maglaj by bus  
*\*\*The drive from Sarajevo to Maglaj takes approximately 1 hour 45 minutes. The delegation will have a 20-minute coffee break on the road to Maglaj.*

10:00 am – 11:00 am Visit cleared minefields in Maglaj and attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony with municipality representatives.  
Demining in Maglaj: Massive flooding throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in August 2014 disturbed many of the minefields in the region, causing landmines throughout BiH to migrate from known locations and pose a threat to those living there. The minefields in Maglaj were recently cleared by the Mine Detection Dog Center (MDDC) using funds provided by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI), and the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) of the U.S. State Department.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Briefing about the de-mining process in Maglaj, including meetings with Maglaj municipality officials and a short video about the floods and mine situation in Maglaj municipality

12:30 pm – 03:00 pm Lunch hosted by the Mayor of Maglaj, other high-level municipality officials, and members of the community who were impacted by the clearance of landmines in Maglaj

03:00 pm Depart Maglaj and transfer to Sarajevo

05:00 pm Arrive Sarajevo

05:00 pm – 06:30 pm Watch a sitting volleyball game of a sitting volleyball tournament in BiH  
Sitting Volleyball Game: Fantomi Volleyball Club, a world champion sitting volleyball team consisting primarily of landmine survivors, will play the U.S. National Sitting Volleyball team in a tournament taking place in BiH. The game will further expose the delegation to the impact of landmines in communities throughout BiH and will reinforce the importance of the de-mining work that took place in Maglaj.

06:30 pm Transfer to airport

08:35 pm Depart Sarajevo on TK1026, transfer to Istanbul

11:30 pm Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST)  
*\*Note the 1-hr time change between Sarajevo and Istanbul. The flight is approximately 2 hours.*

00:30 am Arrive Atakoy Hyatt Regency Hotel

May 30, 2015/Saturday

06:30 am Coffee in hotel lobby

07:00 am Depart hotel, transfer to Eceabat/Canakkale by bus

*\*\*The drive from Istanbul to Eceabat takes approximately 4-5 hours; the road is freeway from Istanbul to Tekirdag, which is halfway between Eceabat and Istanbul, and only a two-lane highway from Tekirdag to Eceabat. Eceabat is on the European side of the Dardanelles, and Canakkale is on the Asian side of the Dardanelles.*

Bridge between Europe & Asia on the Dardanelles – Canakkale: The Turkish straits dividing Asia and Europe are comprised of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. This 17-mile long waterway supplies Western and Southern Europe with oil from the Caspian Sea Region, and with 50,000 vessels passing through the straits annually carrying oil and other goods, the Dardanelles are one of the world's busiest trade passageways. Canakkale, a port town at the entrance of the Dardanelles, is also the site of two famous battles that helped shape Western civilization: the Trojan War and the Gallipoli Campaign. 2015 marks the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli, a key victory for Ottoman forces against the Allies during World War I and an event that is a key source of national pride for modern Turkey.

12:30 pm – 01:30 pm Lunch at Maydos Restaurant in Eceabat and briefing by historian to introduce the Gallipoli campaign

01:30 pm – 02:30 pm Visit Kilitbahir and Seddulbahir with historian

Kilitbahir: In Kilitbahir, there are a number of old earthen gun ramparts and concrete ammunition bunkers. These formed part of the defense system used by the Ottomans in the 1915 Gallipoli Campaign. The gun positions are still visible and visitors can see the path that was used to transport shells to these positions from the ammunition bunkers below. Just south of the ramparts is a great bronze statue dating from 1992 of Corporal Seyit, a soldier in the Gallipoli campaign, carrying a 275 kg shell to the guns at the top of the hill. According to reports, when the machinery that carried the shells to the guns broke on March 18, 1915, he carried the shells himself. The shell he is shown to carry supposedly hit and sank a British battleship. This statue is a tribute to the Turkish gunners who stood firm against the shelling of Allied Warships, and serves as a reminder of the battle.

Seddulbahir: A village near Eceabat on the European side of Canakkale Province, Seddulbahir is the site of V Beach, the landing zone for two Irish battalions during the Battle of Gallipoli. At the tip of the Seddulbahir promontory is a castle built in the seventeenth century. During the Gallipoli campaign, this castle was used by Ottoman soldiers and was repeatedly bombarded by British and Irish forces. By visiting Seddulbahir, the delegation will see one of the key sites of the Battle of Gallipoli.

- 02:30 pm – 4:00 pm Boat tour of the Dardanelles and Anzac Cove with historian, beginning at Seddulbahir and ending at Kabatepe  
Boat Tour: The boat tour will allow the delegation to see the perspectives and obstacles of the ANZACs as they landed on the beach, as well as the perspectives of Turkish forces as they defended the area.
- 04:00 pm – 06:30 pm Get off boat at Kabatepe, a village near Eceabat and visit Anzac Cove, the Sphinx, Sari Bair, Shrapnel Valley, Lone Pine Memorial, the Nek, Quinn's Post, Chunuk Bair, and other key sites of the 1915 Gallipoli Campaign with historian by bus  
Anzac Cove: Anzac Cove originally became famous as the landing site of the ANZACs (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) during the Battle of Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. It was always within 1 km of the front-line during the Battle of Gallipoli. The beach itself became an enormous supply dump for ANZAC forces, and two field hospitals were established there. Nearby, there is a memorial that was erected to honor the soldiers who fought here.  
The Sphinx and Sari Bair: A name given to this area by the ANZACs that is still used by the local population today, the Sphinx is a hill that lies in the Sari Bair range. This area is the highest point on this part of Gallipoli.  
Shrapnel Valley: When the Turks realized that this valley was the main highway used by the ANZACs to move their guns to the front in the early days of the battle, the Turks began raining shrapnel shells down upon this area.  
Lone Pine Memorial: The Turkish trenches during the Battle of Gallipoli lie on the eastern side of the vantage point. In August 1915, this area was bombarded by ANZAC forces.  
The Nek: A small battle was fought here as a part of the Gallipoli campaign. It is a narrow stretch of ridge that connected the ANZAC trenches to the ridge on which the Ottoman defenders were entrenched.  
Quinn's Post: This is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery located in the former ANZAC sector of the Gallipoli peninsula.  
Chunuk Bair: A battle was fought here between Ottoman defenders and British troops, and the latter won the battle. The capture of Chunuk Bair was the only success for the Allies of the Gallipoli campaign. Allies held it for only a few days before Ottoman forces recaptured it.
- 07:00 pm Transfer to Tusan hotel in Canakkale
- 08:00 pm – 10:00 pm Dinner in Canakkale and presentation by TCA about commercial ties between Turkey and the U.S. and the commercial importance of the Dardanelles

May 31, 2013/Sunday

04:45 am Depart hotel, transfer to Canakkale Airport (CKZ)  
05:15 am Arrive Canakkale Airport (CKZ)  
06:00 am Depart Canakkale on Borajet flight YB3418  
06:50 am Arrive Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW)  
07:30 am Transfer from Sabiha Gokcen to Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST)  
09:30 am Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST)  
Early afternoon Depart Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST) to the U.S.

For flights back to the U.S., participants will depart from Istanbul to one of the following cities:

Los Angeles (LAX) – TK9, Departs at 12:45 pm, Arrives LAX at 04:30 pm (Pacific Time)

New York City (JFK) – TK1, Departs at 01:15 pm, Arrives JFK 04:50 pm

Boston (BOS) – TK81, Departs at 01:25 pm, Arrives BOS 05:00 pm

Washington, DC (IAD) – TK7, Departs at 01:40 pm, Arrives IAD at 06:10 pm

**Addendum 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND REASONS FOR INVITATION – edited 5/5/15 for clarifications requested by the Ethics Committee**

1. Rep. Frank Guinta (R-NH/1<sup>st</sup>)
2. Jay Ruais, Chief of Staff for Rep. Frank Guinta (R-NH/1<sup>st</sup>)
3. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY/18<sup>th</sup>)
4. Timothy Persico, Chief of Staff for Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY/18<sup>th</sup>)
5. Randy Florke, Spouse of Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY/18<sup>th</sup>)\*
6. Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA/51<sup>st</sup>)
7. Timothy Walsh, Chief of Staff for Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA/51<sup>st</sup>)
8. Ryan Carney, Chief of Staff for Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ/3<sup>rd</sup>)
9. Micah Chambers, Legislative Director for Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT/AL)
10. David Fitzsimmons, Chief of Staff for Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN/6<sup>th</sup>)
11. Tyler Houlton, Chief of Staff for Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI/6<sup>th</sup>)
12. Roy Schultheis, Chief of Staff for Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL/26<sup>th</sup>)

*\*Randy Florke is the spouse of Rep. Maloney. He will personally cover all of his airfare costs, and the sponsor (TCA) will cover all other costs of his participation including bus and boat transportation.*

Since TCA works to increase awareness of Turkish history and culture among the public and U.S. government officials, the participants were invited because we want to increase their office's awareness of Turkish culture, politics, and history. We hope that participants will return from this trip having gained a new perspective and first-hand knowledge with which they may approach issues pertaining to U.S. relations with both Turkey and BiH in their daily work. Any bill that includes Turkey or Bosnia-related issues has the potential to reach the House floor and

every member of Congress would be able to vote on these bills. TCA thus invited members of Congress and their staff who have limited experience with or knowledge of Turkey and/or Bosnia in order to expose them to and educate them about this region of the world. This is so they will be able to make more informed decisions on Turkey and Bosnia-related issues, and there will be more balanced dialogue when these issues come to the House floor.

For additional information about the reasons for inviting these participants, please see Addendum 3 below.

**Addendum 3: PURPOSE OF TRIP – edited 5/5/15 for clarifications requested by the Ethics Committee**

The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) is a Massachusetts non-profit corporation, headquartered in Washington, DC. It is a charitable, educational organization exempt from taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. TCA is dedicated to fostering cooperation and a positive relationship between the US and Turkey. In addition to sponsoring congressional visits to Turkey, TCA has provided 115 Americans grants and scholarships for study in Turkey. TCA also has provided academic grants that have brought together scholars from all over the world in international conferences to increase and deepen scholarship on Turkey.

**Purpose of the sponsored travel:**

Turkey is a NATO member state in which the US has significant interests. The Incirlik Air Base is home to the 39<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing and the 728<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Squadron, while the Izmir Air Station is home to the 425<sup>th</sup> Air Base Squadron and the 840<sup>th</sup> US Army Transportation Battalion. The standing headquarters for NATO land forces (LANDCOM) is in also in Izmir. From these facilities the US supports its own and allied missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and beyond. Turkey is also an important trading partner of the US, with approximately \$20 billion in goods and services exchanged each year.

Turkey is an important factor in several matters currently facing Congress, such as foreign policy and national security decisions pertaining to a wide swathe of the Middle East from Libya to Iran, as well as trade decisions and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in light of Turkey's membership in the European Union Customs Union.

By travelling to Turkey and Bosnia, participants will undertake critical fact-finding and gain first-hand knowledge that will assist in the development of better-informed opinions about Turkey and the Balkan region and beneficially impact their policy decisions about Turkey and Bosnia-related issues in their day-to-day work.

When visiting Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, participants will learn about Turkey's economy, foreign policy, and domestic politics. They will be exposed to several viewpoints by meeting with senior officials of the American diplomatic corps, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkish NGO representatives, religious minority leaders, academics, business leaders, and members of the press. Some of the key issues that will be discussed include: the civil war in Syria and the threat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria; events occurring on Turkey's border and in which Turkey's cooperation is vital; relations with Iran, which also borders Turkey; economic ties between the US and Turkey; and negotiations surrounding TTIP and the importance of including Turkey in these negotiations. Additionally, since 99% of the Turkish population is Muslim, participants will be able to develop an understanding of how democracy and Islam can function together and how the lessons learned in Turkey can be applied elsewhere. For this reason, participants will visit the Blue Mosque, which for many of them will be their first opportunity to enter a mosque and learn about Islam firsthand. Finally, the visit will allow them to learn about Turkish history and the basis of Turkish identity so they can better understand the Turkish perspective on key policy issues affecting the US-Turkish relationship. In this regard they will visit the the critical World War I battle site of Gallipoli in Canakkale.

More specifically, the delegation will travel to Canakkale to spend time exploring the site of the Battle of Gallipoli. They will learn about the significance that this battle holds for modern military operations and in modern Turkish identity. It is important that the delegation be exposed to Gallipoli and its history for several reasons. First, ever since the battle ended in 1916, it has been integral to modern military strategy. For example, prior to the US Pacific Island campaign during World War II, the US first heavily examined the mistakes and successes of the Gallipoli campaign in order to develop its approach. Scholars, politicians, and military leaders today still study the geography of the peninsula and the actions of the Allies and the Ottoman forces in order to develop best practices in amphibious warfare. Second, the success of the Ottoman forces during the Gallipoli campaign is a central point in the history of the Turkish Republic and a defining moment in modern Turkish identity. To understand modern Turkey and thus coordinate with its government and its people, it is important to understand Canakkale and the Battle of Gallipoli. Furthermore, Gallipoli has become a point of good will between Turkey and the international community, as Turkey, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom jointly commemorate the victims of the battle every year. This can be a model for bridge building in the future between countries emerging from war with each other. Third, since 2015 is the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli, the delegation has the opportunity to be a part of the commemoration of this event. This anniversary was recognized by the US Executive Branch, and the US Congress now can recognize it as well. Finally, Canakkale is also the site of the Dardanelles, the straits dividing Asia and Europe. This 17-mile long waterway controls access to Black Sea from the Mediterranean, and is one of the world's busiest trade passageways. Participants will learn about the importance of this route for world trade and, more specifically, its role in US international trade, knowledge that will inform their policy decisions regarding trade in their daily work.



By visiting Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), participants will also learn about US-Bosnia relations and the ongoing role of Turkey and the US as guarantors of lasting peace in the Balkan region. Participants will also be exposed to the historical and cultural ties that Turkey and Bosnia share. More specifically, they will travel to the village of Maglaj, where they will learn in-depth about the damaging impact that landmines have had on the region and the ongoing efforts to clear these landmines. In Maglaj, they will take part in a ceremony to commemorate the recent removal of minefields from the Maglaj region. These minefields were cleared by the Mine Detection Dog Center (MDDC) using funds provided by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI), and the US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA). As a result of this fact-finding trip, participants will be able to use such knowledge when forming opinions and making decisions concerning Bosnia and areas of the world that have similar landmine issues. The delegation will also watch the Fantomi Volleyball Club, a world champion sitting volleyball team consisting primarily of landmine survivors, play the US National Sitting Volleyball team. The game will further expose delegation participants to the impact of landmines in communities throughout BiH and will reinforce the importance of de-mining work when Congress considers funding for such initiatives in the future.

In conclusion, TCA believes that given the many important issues on which the US, Turkey, and Bosnia cooperate, the need to better inform members of Congress and Congressional staff about Turkey and Bosnia-related issues is clear. By sponsoring this travel, TCA would like to contribute to a balanced and informed dialogue on Turkish and Bosnian issues among US decision makers. Furthermore, TCA hopes that the sponsored travel will continue to build a positive relationship between the US and its key partner, Turkey.

#### **Addendum 4: MODE AND CLASS OF TRAVEL**

All flights will be on commercial airlines. Turkish Airlines will be used for all international travel and Borajet Airline will be used for the flight from Canakkale to Istanbul. Buses and boats will be used for all other transportation.

Members of Congress and staff who are flying with their Member will fly Business Class on transatlantic flights. Members of Congress will fly Business Class on the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul. Staff not flying with their Members of Congress will fly Coach Class on transatlantic flights. All staff will fly Coach Class on the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul.

#### **Addendum 5: NAME, NIGHTLY COST, AND REASONS FOR SELECTING EACH HOTEL**

Hotel Name: Pera Palace Hotel (2 nights) City: Istanbul Cost per night: \$255  
Reason(s) for selecting: Due to its proximity to meeting sites and its historical significance dating back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

Hotel Name: Atakoy Hyatt Regency (1 night) City: Istanbul Cost per night: \$180  
Reason(s) for selecting: Due to its proximity to the airport

Hotel Name: Residence Inn (1 night) City: Sarajevo Cost per night: \$170  
Reason(s) for selecting: Due to its proximity to meeting sites

Hotel Name: Tusan Hotel (1 night) City: Canakkale Cost per night: \$55  
Reason(s) for selecting: Due to its proximity to meeting sites

#### **Addendum 6: TOTAL TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES PER PARTICIPANT**

For each person flying Business Class on the transatlantic flights and the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul, the total transportation expenses per person are: \$5,750.00 (3 individuals: Rep. Frank Guinta, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, Rep. Juan Vargas)

For each person flying Business Class on the transatlantic flights and Coach Class on the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul, the total transportation expenses per person are: \$5,450.00 (2 individuals: Jay Ruais (Chief of Staff for Rep. Frank Guinta), Tim Persico (Chief of Staff for Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney))

For each person flying Coach Class on the transatlantic flights and the flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul, the total transportation expenses per person are: \$2,500.00 (6 individuals: Tim Walsh, Ryan Carney, David Fitzsimmons, Tyler Houlton, Roy Schultheis, Micah Chambers)

Transportation expenses include transatlantic flights, flights between Sarajevo and Istanbul, the cost of renting a bus between Istanbul and Canakkale, the flight back to Istanbul from Canakkale, and ferry costs. Randy Florke will personally cover all his airfare costs and the sponsor (TCA) will cover the cost of the bus and ferry.

#### **Addendum 7: "OTHER" EXPENSES**

Other expenses include: historian fees, entrance fees, meeting rooms, and tour boat hire.

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics**

**NON-GRANTMAKING TRIP SPONSOR FORM**

This form should be completed by a private individual or entity that provides funds, services, or in-kind donations to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. A Non-Grantmaking Sponsor that has a direct involvement in planning, organizing, conducting, or participating in the trip must complete this form. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Name of your organization: The Marshall Legacy Institute
2. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor: Turkish Coalition of America
3. My organization has provided funds to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor to pay all or part of the expenses for a trip to (destination) Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina  
on (date) May 25-31, 2015 that primarily is being organized or arranged by the  
above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. ☐ Yes ☒ No
4. My organization has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, arranging, or will have a role in conducting, the trip identified in response to Question 3 or an event that will occur during that trip.  
☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Check one:
  - a. ☒ My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent or
  - b. ☐ My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
6. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip. ☒
7. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name: Perry F. Baltimore III Title: President and CEO

Organization: Marshall Legacy Institute

Address: 2425 Wilson Blvd., Suite 240, Arlington, VA 22201

Telephone number: 703-243-9200

Email Address: pbaltimore@marshall-legacy.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7103 (phone)  
(202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Charles W. Dent, Pennsylvania  
*Chairman*  
Linda T. Sánchez, California  
*Ranking Member*



ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

May 21, 2015

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*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Joanne White  
*Administrative Staff Director*

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The Honorable Juan Vargas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1605 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina, scheduled for May 25 to 31, 2015, sponsored by the Turkish Coalition of America, with organizational support from the Marshall Legacy Institute.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$375 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$375] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

The Honorable Juan Vargas  
Page 2

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Dent". The signature is stylized with large, bold letters.

Charles W. Dent  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda T. Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Linda T. Sánchez  
Ranking Member

CWD/LTS:wfs